



The Savvy Consumer's Checklist Protecting Your Identity

Illinoisans are falling victim to the crime of identity theft in increasing numbers. Use the following tips to protect yourself from identity thieves:

- ✓ **Protect your mail.** Know when your mail gets delivered and pick it up as soon as possible after delivery. If bills are late, contact your creditors. Never let your mail build up when you are out of town.
- ✓ **Keep papers containing your personal information in a safe place, and shred them when they are no longer needed.** This includes account statements, receipts, tax forms, and anything else containing your account information or Social Security number. Check with your employer to make sure they keep all your personal information in a secure place.
- ✓ **Protect your Social Security number.** Leave your Social Security card in a safe place. Do not give out your Social Security number unless it is **absolutely** necessary. Do not have your Social Security number printed on your driver's license, and never write it on a personal check at a store.
- ✓ **Keep close watch over your credit and debit cards.** Carry only the credit or debit cards you know you will need. When you use a credit or debit card, make sure you know where your card goes during the transaction and get it back immediately following the purchase. Always take receipts with you.
- ✓ **Protect your account numbers, passwords, and PIN numbers.** Never write passwords or PIN numbers on the backs of cards or anything else you keep in your wallet. Contact creditors immediately if you lose your wallet. To help you do this, keep a list or photocopy of all your credit cards, account numbers, expiration dates, and the telephone numbers of their customer service and fraud departments in a secure place at home. Do the same with your bank account information.
- ✓ **Protect your identity when you shop online.** Shop only with companies you know and trust. Use a secure browser and keep a record of all transactions.

please visit

www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov



Consumer Fraud Hotlines

Chicago

1-800-386-5438

TTY: 1-800-964-3013

Springfield

1-800-243-0618

TTY: 1-877-844-5461

Carbondale

1-800-243-0607

TTY: 1-877-675-9339